



General Assembly

February Session, 2008

Raised Bill No. 499

LCO No. 2369

02369_____TRA

Referred to Committee on Transportation

Introduced by:
(TRA)

***AN ACT CONCERNING PARKING FOR PERSONS WITH
DISABILITIES.***

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Assembly convened:

1 Section 1. (NEW) (*Effective October 1, 2008*) (a) As used in this
2 section: (1) "Removable windshield placard" means a two-sided,
3 hanger-style placard which bears on both of its sides: (A) The
4 international symbol of access in a height of three inches or more
5 centered on such placard and colored white on a blue background; (B)
6 a unique identification number; (C) a date of expiration which is the
7 same date on which the operator's license of the placard holder
8 expires; and (D) a statement indicating that the Department of Motor
9 Vehicles issued such placard; and (2) "temporary removable
10 windshield placard" means a placard that is the same as a removable
11 windshield placard except that the international symbol of access
12 appears on a red background. On or after October 1, 2008, any placard
13 issued or renewed shall contain the placard number, the signature of
14 the person to whom such placard is issued, and the last five digits of
15 such person's operator's license number.

16 (b) Any person who was issued a windshield placard by the
17 Department of Motor Vehicles pursuant to section 14-253a of the 2008
18 supplement to the general statutes prior to October 1, 2008, or who is
19 issued such placard on or after October 1, 2008, shall be required to
20 renew such placard when such person renews their operator's license
21 in accordance with the schedule established by the Commissioner of
22 Motor Vehicles pursuant to section 14-41 of the 2008 supplement to the
23 general statutes. Such placard renewal applications shall be on a form
24 prescribed by the commissioner and shall include certification of
25 disability from a licensed physician or advanced practice registered
26 nurse, licensed in accordance with the provisions of chapter 378 of the
27 general statutes. In the case of persons with disabilities which limit or
28 impair the ability to walk, the renewal application shall also include
29 certification from a licensed physician or advanced practice registered
30 nurse, licensed in accordance with the provisions of said chapter 378,
31 that the applicant meets the definition of persons with disabilities
32 which limit or impair the ability to walk, as defined in 23 CFR Section
33 1235.2.

34 Sec. 2. (NEW) (*Effective October 1, 2008*) (a) The Commissioner of
35 Motor Vehicles shall establish an online program allowing members of
36 the public to file complaints of violations of statutory or regulatory
37 provisions concerning parking for persons with disabilities. Such
38 program shall require any person making such a complaint to disclose
39 their identity.

40 (b) The Commissioner of Motor Vehicles shall revise the application
41 form for issuance or renewal of the placard required by section 1 of
42 this act which includes a strengthened false statement provision and
43 an increased penalty for false statement with respect to a certification
44 of disability from a licensed physician or advanced practice registered
45 nurse.

46 (c) The Commissioner of Motor Vehicles shall develop and
47 implement a recall procedure for existing placards. The recall

48 procedure may be implemented over several years. Any renewal of
 49 such placards shall require the issuance of a new placard in accordance
 50 with the provisions of section 1 of this act. If the recall procedure
 51 results in a request for the renewal of such placard within six months
 52 prior to the renewal date of the holder's operator's license, the
 53 commissioner may extend the renewal requirement until such date.

54 Sec. 3. (*Effective October 1, 2008*) The Commissioner of Motor
 55 Vehicles, in consultation with members of municipal police
 56 departments, shall: (1) Review and evaluate alternative methods of
 57 enforcement of statutory provisions concerning parking for persons
 58 with disabilities in areas not normally patrolled by municipal police
 59 officers, including private property, and develop recommendations,
 60 including proposed legislation, authorizing municipal police
 61 departments to employ ancillary staff for such enforcement, such as
 62 retired police officers; (2) recommend increased fines for persons who
 63 violate such provisions, including a mandatory court appearance, and
 64 shall submit such recommendations and proposed legislation to the
 65 joint standing committee of the General Assembly having cognizance
 66 of matters relating to parking for persons with disabilities not later
 67 than January 15, 2009.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	<i>October 1, 2008</i>	New section
Sec. 2	<i>October 1, 2008</i>	New section
Sec. 3	<i>October 1, 2008</i>	New section

Statement of Purpose:

To revise and improve the process for the renewal of windshield placards which allow parking in spaces reserved for persons with disabilities, to require a recall of existing placards, and to develop methods for strengthened enforcement of statutory and regulatory provisions concerning parking in such spaces.

[Proposed deletions are enclosed in brackets. Proposed additions are indicated by underline, except that when the entire text of a bill or resolution or a section of a bill or resolution is new, it is not underlined.]